[22nd November 1955

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Nutrition Section of the Public Health Department have made an analysis of this ghee and they tell me that it is not at all harmful.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know whether the Government are aware that there is wide-spread distribution of American ghee going on through Roman Catholic missions, which is also used by them for religious and other purposes?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government of India have accepted the gift from America. The Regional Director of Food, Government of India, has been distributing it through various institutions like the National Catholic Welfare Conference, New York, the Archbishop of Madras and certain other officers.

SRI A. RATNAM : May I know who are the agencies other than the missionaries in our State and whether the Government have a check over them?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As I have stated, distribution is done by the Regional Director of Food, Government of India, and not by the Madras Government.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Are there any political strings attached to this presentation of ghee, Sir?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no idea at all about that, Sir.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : As Members of the Estimates Committee, we recently visited some hospitals in the State and we saw this American ghee stocked in the hospitals, but not being used. When questioned as to why they had not been used, we were told that it had been sent for test. May I know from the Hon. Minister what the result of such a test is and whether it is affirmative or negative with regard to its usage?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question to the Hon. Minister for Health.

" *Medical aid* " *for the Vayittiri Panchayat Board*

* 2723 *Q.*—SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the action taken by the Government on the question of " medical aid " referred to in the Memorandum submitted by the Vayittiri Panchayat Board through the Hon. the Chief Minister on 4th May 1955?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No action was taken as provision of medical aid in rural areas is primarily the responsibility of the local bodies concerned.